



'Mama bears' may be the 2024 race's soccer moms

By SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

In many election cycles, there's a snappy shorthand used to describe the type of voters who may help decide the winner. Think soccer moms or security moms. Even NASCAR dads. And now, the "mama bears." These conservative mothers and grandmothers, who in recent years have organized for "parental rights," including banning discussion of gender identity in schools, have been classified as extremists by the Southern Poverty Law Center. They have also been among the most coveted voters so far in the 2024 Republican presidential primary. Donald Trump praised their work, saying organizations such as Moms for Liberty had taught the liberal left a lesson: "Don't mess with America's moms."



Moms for Liberty co-founders Tina Descovich, left, and Tiffany Justice, speak at the Moms for Liberty meeting in Philadelphia, Friday, June 30, 2023.

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Associated Press

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Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till

By **DARLENE SUPERVILLE**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will establish a national monument honoring Emmett Till, the Black teenager from Chicago who was abducted, tortured and killed in 1955 after he was accused of whistling at a white woman in Mississippi, and his mother, a White House official said Saturday.

Biden will sign a proclama-

tion on Tuesday to create the Emmett Till and Mamie Till-Mobley National Monument across three sites in Illinois and Mississippi, according to the official. The individual spoke on condition of anonymity because the White House had not formally announced the president's plans.

Tuesday is the anniversary of Emmett Till's birth in 1941. The monument will protect places that are cen-

tral to the story of Till's life and death at age 14, the acquittal of his white killers and his mother's activism. Till's mother's insistence on an open casket to show the world how her son had been brutalized and Jet's magazine's decision to publish photos of his mutilated body helped galvanize the Civil Rights Movement.

Biden's decision also comes at a fraught time in the



President Joe Biden walks to his motorcade as he leaves Holy Trinity Catholic Church in the Georgetown section of Washington, after attending Mass, Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Associated Press



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United States over matters concerning race. Conservative leaders are pushing back against the teaching of slavery and Black history in public schools, as well as the incorporation of diversity, equity and inclusion programs from college classrooms to corporate boardrooms.

On Friday, Vice President Kamala Harris criticized a revised Black history curriculum in Florida that includes teaching that enslaved people benefited from the skills they learned at the hands of the people who denied them freedom. The Florida Board of Education approved the curriculum to satisfy legislation signed by Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican presidential candidate who has accused public schools of liberal indoctrination.

"How is it that anyone could suggest that in the midst of these atrocities that there was any benefit to being subjected to this level of dehumanization?" Harris asked in a speech delivered from Jacksonville, Florida.

DeSantis said he had no role in devising his state's new education standards but defended the components on how enslaved

people benefited.

"All of that is rooted in what-ever is factual," he said in response.

The monument to Till and his mother will include three sites in the two states.

The Illinois site is Roberts Temple Church of God in Christ in Bronzeville, a historically Black neighborhood on Chicago's South Side. Thousands of people gathered at the church to mourn Emmett Till in September 1955.

The Mississippi locations are Graball Landing, believed to be where Till's mutilated body was pulled from the Tallahatchie River, and the Tallahatchie County Second District Courthouse in Sumner, Mississippi, where Till's killers were tried and acquitted by an all-white jury.

Till was visiting relatives in Mississippi when Carolyn Bryant Donham said the 14-year-old Till whistled and made sexual advances at her while she worked in a store in the small community of Money.

Till was later abducted and his body eventually pulled from the Tallahatchie River, where he had been tossed after he was shot and weighted down with a cotton gin fan. □

'Mama bears' may be the 2024 race's soccer moms

Continued from Front

Ron DeSantis said "woke" policies had "awakened the most powerful political force in the country: mama bears." His wife, Casey DeSantis, who launched "Mamas for DeSantis" in lead-off-voting Iowa, said moms and grandmas were the "game changer" in DeSantis' blowout win for a second term as Florida governor. She predicted they will be again as he runs for president.

"It's one thing when your policies come after us as mamas," Casey DeSantis said in a talk peppered with stories about raising kids in the governor's mansion. "It's another thing when your policies come after our children, and that's when the claws come out." These so-called mama bears whom DeSantis and other Republicans are courting are conservative women living across the United States. They are largely white and may belong to official groups such as Moms for Liberty, which says it has 120,000 members nationally, or smaller groups like No Left Turn in Education. Some belong to no group at all.

The groups and their work took off during the COVID-19 pandemic, when they



Casey DeSantis speaks about her family focused program in the state of Florida during a campaign event with Republican presidential candidate Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Friday, June 2, 2023, in Lexington, S.C.

Associated Press

say parents got a closer look at what their children were being exposed to in public schools. They grew in numbers as Democrat Joe Biden defeated Trump in 2020 and were motivated by what they called government overreach and "woke" policies.

Geraldyn Jones, 31, of Marion, Iowa, said she was not active in politics until the pandemic, when she grew concerned about mask requirements and online schooling for her son, who was in kindergarten. She started asking questions and did not like the answers she was getting.

Jones pulled her two kids out of public school after the district approved

a policy that allows transgender students to use the bathroom or locker room of the gender they identify as, without alerting parents. She now leads the Linn County chapter of Moms for Liberty. Jones, who voted for Trump in 2016 and 2020, says he and other 2024 candidates have reached out to Moms for Liberty to schedule time to meet with moms.

"I think we are going to be the most sought-out group or sought-out voice in this next election," she said.

Opponents say the warm-fuzzy image of a mama bear is a way to mask a cruel, extreme agenda that hurts children.

"Republicans have decid-

ed that this is, I think, their golden ticket for the primaries to rile up their base," said Katie Paris, who runs Red, Wine and Blue, a network of women pushing back on GOP-backed policies such as the anti-LGBTQ and anti-trans efforts of Moms for Liberty.

"The reality about 'parents' rights' is that it's just about the rights of a vocal minority that is trying to carry out an extreme political agenda." The mama bear movement is "a contemporary iteration of a trend we've seen before," said Linda Beail, a professor at Point Loma Nazarene University and the author of a book about Sarah Palin, the 2008 Republican vice presidential nominee.

During the suffrage movement, women pushed baby carriages as they marched for the right to vote. For decades, white Southern women held a powerful role in shoring up segregation and white supremacy, doing jobs such as keeping Black people off lists of eligible voters.

Palin was a game changer in many ways, Beail said. In the 2010 midterms, Palin used the phrase "mama grizzlies" to describe the conservative women she said would stop Democrats. It portrayed women

as fiercely protective, defending a traditional way of life and motivated by their children. "It's hard to argue with," Beail said. "It's selflessly protecting your cubs, right?" In 2024, being a mama bear also may provide a space for conservative women who have not been politically active before or who may have sat out previous elections. If the mama bear narrative is persuasive, Beail said, there are a lot of women who could say, "That's the spot for me."

Women are generally more likely to vote for Democrats than men, but Democratic House candidates held only a 50% to 47% advantage among women in last year's midterms, according to AP VoteCast, a broad survey of the electorate. More men voted for Republicans than Democrats, 54% to 43%.

Last year, conservatives tried to get hundreds of "parents rights" activists elected to school boards, with help from millions in donations from groups such as the 1776 Project PAC. One-third of the roughly 50 candidates backed by the 1776 Project PAC won their races. About half the candidates supported by Moms for Liberty were successful. □

Court strikes down limits on filming of police in Arizona

PHOENIX (AP) — A federal judge has ruled that an Arizona law limiting how close people can get to recording law enforcement is unconstitutional, citing infringement against a clearly established right to film police doing their jobs.

The ruling Friday from U.S. District Judge John J. Tuchi permanently blocks enforcement of the law that he suspended last year.

The Republican-backed law was signed by former Republican Gov. Doug Ducey in July 2022 but enthusiasm for the restrictions faded and legislators refused an opportunity to defend the law during an

initial court suspension. Republican state Sen. John Kavanagh, who sponsored the measure, has said he was unable to find an outside group to defend the legislation.

The law would have made it illegal to knowingly film police officers 8 feet (2.5 meters) or closer if the officer tells the person to stop. And on private property, an officer who decides that someone is interfering or that the area is unsafe could have ordered the person to stop filming even if the recording was being made with the owner's permission.

"The law prohibits or chills a

substantial amount of First Amendment protected activity and is unnecessary to prevent interference with police officers given other Arizona laws in effect," Tuchi ruled.

A coalition of media groups and the ACLU successfully sued to block the law. Prominent law enforcement officials refused to defend the law, including former Republican Attorney General Mark Brnovich and both the prosecutor and sheriff's office in Maricopa County, home to Phoenix.

Bystander cellphone videos are largely credited with revealing police mis-



Phoenix Police stand in front of police headquarters on May 30, 2020, in Phoenix, waiting for protesters marching to protest the death of George Floyd.

Associated Press

conduct — such as with the 2020 killing of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis officers — and reshaping the conversation around police transparen-

cy. But Republican Arizona lawmakers initially said the legislation was needed to limit people with cameras who deliberately impede officers. □

School board in Missouri, now controlled by conservatives, revokes anti-racism resolution

By **JIM SALTER**
Associated Press

O'FALLON, Mo. (AP) — In the national reckoning that followed the police killing of George Floyd three years ago, about 2,000 protesters took to the streets in a St. Louis suburb and urged the mostly white Francis Howell School District to address racial discrimination. The school board responded with a resolution promising to do better.

Now the board, led by new conservative board members elected since last year, has revoked that anti-racism resolution and copies of it will be removed from school buildings.

The resolution passed in August 2020 "pledges to our learning community that we will speak firmly against any racism, discrimination, and senseless violence against people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, immigration status, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or ability. "We will promote racial healing, especially for our Black and brown students and families," the resolution states. "We will no longer be silent."

The board's decision follows a trend that began with backlash against COVID-19 pandemic policies in places around the nation. School board elections have become intense political battlegrounds,



Kimberly Thompson, center, listens as Francis Howell School Board members talk in favor of rescinding all previously passed resolutions, including an anti-racism resolution, during a meeting on Thursday, July 20, 2023 in O'Fallon, Mo.

Associated Press

with political action groups successfully electing candidates promising to take action against teachings on race and sexuality, remove books deemed offensive and stop transgender-inclusive sports teams.

The Francis Howell district is among Missouri's largest, with 17,000 students, about 87% of whom are white. The vote, which came during an often contentious meeting Thursday, rescinded resolutions 75 days after "a majority of current Board of Education members were not signatories to the resolution or did not otherwise

vote to adopt the resolution."

While a few others also will be canceled, the anti-racism resolution was clearly the focus. Dozens of people opposed to its revocation packed the board meeting, many holding signs reading, "Forward, not backward."

Kimberly Thompson, who is Black, attended Francis Howell schools in the 1970s and 1980s, and her two children graduated from the district. She described several instances of racism and urged the board to stand by its 2020 commit-

ment.

"This resolution means hope to me, hope of a better Francis Howell School District," Thompson said. "It means setting expectations for behavior for students and staff regardless of their personal opinions."

The board's vice president, Randy Cook, said phrases in the resolution such as "systemic racism" aren't defined and mean different things to different people. Another board member, Jane Puszkas, said the resolution served no purpose.

"What has it really done," she asked. "How effective

has it really been?"

Since the resolution was adopted, the makeup of the board has flipped. Just two board members remain from 2020. Five new members elected in April 2022 and April 2023 had the backing of the conservative political action committee Francis Howell Families.

In 2021, the PAC described the anti-racism resolution as "woke activism" and drafted an alternative resolution to oppose "all acts of racial discrimination, including the act of promoting tenets of the racially-divisive Critical Race Theory, labels of white privilege, enforced equity of outcomes, identity politics, intersectionalism, and Marxism."

Cook, who was elected in 2022 and sponsored the revocation, said there is no plan to adopt that alternative or any other.

"In my opinion, the school board doesn't need to be in the business of dividing the community," Cook said. "We just need to stick to the business of educating students here and stay out of the national politics."

Many districts are dealing with debates over topics mislabeled as critical race theory. School administrators say the scholarly theory centered on the idea that racism is systemic in the nation's institutions is not taught in K-12 schools. □



A model painted by an artist poses during Human Connection Arts Annual NYC Bodypainting Day in Union Square Park on Sunday, July 23, 2023, in New York.

Associated Press

By **AYESHA MIR**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If you've

ever dreamed of standing naked in New York City with dozens of strangers while

Say goodbye to Bodypainting Day, New York City's annual celebration of nudity and artistry

artists turn your skin into a work of art, you may have missed your chance.

Sunday's Bodypainting Day will be the final edition after more than a decade of artists turning nude bodies into works of art. Organizer Andy Golub expects more than 50 people will be painted over four hours in Manhattan's Union Square. Golub decided this year's event would be the last because it's time to "move on and clear that plate." He said he wants to find different

ways of empowering and bringing people together, including a new event next spring. After Sunday's body painting is finished, the participating artists and models will march through Greenwich Village, pose for a photo in Washington Square Park, ride a double-decker bus over the Manhattan Bridge and end the day with a party in Brooklyn, Golub said.

Golub, an artist and free speech activist who's been painting on nude models

since 2007, started the annual body painting extravaganza to underscore that nudity for artistic purposes is legal in New York City.

That hasn't stopped police from trying to halt the event. In 2011, Golub said, he and two models were arrested and detained for 24 hours, but the charges were dropped once authorities determined they were doing nothing illegal.

"You'll find there's a lot of people that have been really impacted positively," □

Protesters try to storm Baghdad's Green Zone over the burning of Quran

By ALI JABAR and
JARI TANNER

Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — Tensions flared again in Iraq on Saturday over a series of recent protests in Europe involving the desecration of the Quran, Islam's holy book, which sparked a debate over the balance between freedom of speech and religious sensitivities. Hundreds of protesters attempted to storm Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone that houses foreign embassies and the seat of Iraq's government early on Saturday, following reports that an ultra-nationalist group burned a copy of the Quran in front of the Iraqi Embassy in the Danish capital, Copenhagen, the previous day.

The protest came two days after people angered by the planned burning of the Islamic holy book in Sweden stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad.

Security forces on Saturday pushed back the protesters, who blocked the Jumhuriya bridge leading to the Green Zone, preventing them from reaching the Danish Embassy.

Elsewhere in Iraq, protesters burned three caravans belonging to a demining project run by the the Danish Refugee Council in the city of Basra in the south, local police said in a statement. The fire was extinguished by civil defense responders, and there were "no human casualties, only material losses," the statement said. The council confirmed in an emailed statement to The Associated Press that its premises in Basra "came under armed attack" early Saturday.

"We deplore this attack — aid workers should never be a target of violence," Lulu Thapa, the Danish Refugee Council's executive director for the Middle East, said.

Iraq's prime minister has cut diplomatic ties with Sweden in protest over the desecration of the Quran in that country.

An Iraqi asylum-seeker who



Iraqis raise copies of the Quran, Muslims' holy book, during a protest in Baghdad, Iraq, Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Associated Press

burned a copy of the Quran during a demonstration last month in Stockholm had threatened to do the same thing again on Thursday but ultimately stopped short of setting fire to the book.

The man — an Iraqi of Christian origin living in Stockholm, now a self-described atheist — did, however, kick and step on it, and did the same with an Iraqi flag and a photo of influential Iraqi Shiite cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr and of Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. The right to hold public demonstrations is protected by the constitution in Sweden, and blasphemy laws were abandoned in the 1970s. Police generally give permission based on whether they believe a public gathering can be held without major disruptions or safety risks.

On Friday afternoon, thousands protested peacefully in Iraq and other Muslim-majority countries.

In Iran, the powerful Revolutionary Guard's chief, Gen. Hossein Salami, said that "we do not allow those who insult the Quran to be safe", the semi-official Tasnim news agency reported Saturday.

Muslims "will decree a severe punishment for the

perpetrators of these crimes," he continued.

In the incident in Copenhagen, according to Danish media reports, members of the ultranationalist group Danske Patriotier burned a copy of the Quran and an Iraqi flag in front of the Iraqi Embassy, livestreaming the action on Facebook.

Copenhagen police spokeswoman Trine Fisker told the AP that "a very small demonstration" with fewer than 10 people took place Friday afternoon across the street from the Iraqi Embassy and that a book was burned.

"We do not know what book it was," she said. "Apparently they tried to burn the Iraqi flag and after that, somebody stepped on it."

Fisker said the "political angle is not for the police to comment" on, but the "event was peaceful ... from a police perspective." The Danish government on Saturday condemned the demonstration. Foreign Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen called the action a "stupidity that a small handful of individuals did."

"It is a shameful act to violate the religion of others," he told Danish public broadcaster DR. "This applies both to the burning of Qurans and other religious

symbols. It has no other purpose than to provoke and create division."

The incident prompted the protests in Baghdad overnight. Chanting in support of the anti-Western Shiite cleric al-Sadr and carrying images of him and the flag associated with his movement, along with the Iraqi flag, hundreds of protesters attempted to enter the Green Zone and clashed with security forces before dispersing.

Later, the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs condemned in a statement "in strong and repeated terms, the incident of abuse against the holy Quran and the flag of the Republic of Iraq in front of the Iraqi Embassy in Denmark."

It called the international community "to stand urgently and responsibly towards these atrocities that violate social peace and coexistence around the world," the statement read. Iran's foreign ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani criticized the desecration of the Quran in Denmark and said the Danish government should be held responsible for preventing such acts and should pursue and punish those behind them, the ministry's website said. □

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4 missing after record-breaking downpours along Canada's Atlantic coast cause flooding

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia (AP)

— Four people are missing after intense thunderstorms dumped record amounts of rain across a wide swath of Canada's Atlantic-coast province of Nova Scotia over the past two days, causing flash flooding, road washouts and power outages.

The floods submerged multiple vehicles, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokeswoman Cindy Bayers said two such incidents in West Hants north of Halifax have left two adults and two children unaccounted for as of Saturday morning. The two children went missing after the vehicle they were travelling in got stuck underwater, Bayers said, noting the three other occupants were able to escape safely.

Two other individuals, who Bayers described as a youth and a man, remain unaccounted for following a separate vehicle submersion. Two other people in that vehicle were rescued, she said, adding police are actively searching for all four missing people.

Torrential downpours started on Friday afternoon across the Halifax region,



Buildings are seen in floodwater following a major rain event in Halifax on Saturday, July 22, 2023.
Associated Press

dumping more than 200 millimeters of rain in some areas. The port city typically receives about 90-100 mm of rain during an average July.

Based on radar estimates and unofficial observations, Environment Canada said on Saturday that some areas may have received more than 300 mm in 24 hours. Radar maps show the heaviest rainfall

extending along the province's southwestern shore to a point north of Halifax. Widespread flooding has also been reported in Lunenburg County, which is west of the Halifax region. On Friday night, water levels rose so fast in the Bedford area that volunteers with Halifax Search and Rescue were using small boats to rescue people from inundated homes.

In the Hammonds Plains area, northwest of the city, flooding washed out driveways and the shoulders of many roads.

That's the same area where 151 homes and businesses were destroyed by a wildfire that started on May 28, forcing evacuations that affected 16,000 residents. And for much of the past week, the Halifax area has been sweltering

under an immobile dome of humidity — a rare event so close to the coast.

It was only last fall that post-tropical storm Fiona descended on the Atlantic region, killing three people, flattening scores of homes and knocking out power to more than 600,000 homes and businesses. Fiona was the most costly weather event in the region's history, causing more than 800 million Canadian dollars (\$604 million) in insured damage.

"It's pretty obvious that the climate is changing — from Fiona last year to the wildfires in the spring and now flooding in the summer," Halifax Mayor Mike Savage said. "We're getting storms that used to be considered one-in-50-year events ... pretty regularly," he added.

While the official statistics have yet to be recorded, it's believed the Halifax region has not seen this level of rainfall since Aug. 16, 1971, when hurricane Beth made landfall near the eastern tip of mainland Nova Scotia and then roared over Cape Breton. At that time, almost 250 mm of rain fell on the Halifax area, causing widespread flooding and damage. □

2,000 people evacuated as a wildfire rages on the Greek island of Rhodes



Clouds of smoke from a forest fire rise to the sky on the island of Rhodes, Greece, Saturday, July 22, 2023.

Associated Press

By DEMETRIS NELLAS

Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — A large wildfire burning on the Greek island of Rhodes for a fifth day has forced

authorities to order an evacuation of four locations, including two seaside resorts.

About 2,000 people, including tourists, were evacu-

ated by sea, fire department spokesman Yannis Artopios said Saturday evening. He added that the hotels and rented homes evacuated "represent less than 10% of the island's tourist accommodations." He added that all visitors had been evacuated without incident.

Three coast guard vessels, an army lifeboat, a special forces inflatable craft and 30 private sailboats helped with the evacuation.

Private passenger shipping company Blue Star has offered one of its ships to accommodate some of the evacuees, Artopios said.

"Care has been taken to accommodate all those that needed to be taken away from the stricken areas," he added.

In previous days, the wild-

fire was confined to the island's mountainous center, but aided by winds, very high temperatures and dry conditions, it spread Saturday toward the coast on the island's central-eastern side. Local media reported the fires had reached three hotels, whose clients had already been evacuated. Artopios said that more than 200 firefighters and 40 fire engines were operating on the ground, assisted by three planes and five helicopters. The force includes 31 firefighters from Slovakia, with five fire engines.

The main front of the fire is a triangle, with two of its points near the sea and one in the mountains. On maps, each side of the triangle appears more than 10 kilometers (six miles)

long. The blaze in Rhodes was just one, the most dangerous, of several active across Greece, Artopios said. The fire northwest of Athens and one near Sparta were subsiding, he said, although the conditions, including temperatures set to reach 45 C (113 F) on Sunday and low humidity (below 15%), mean that the danger isn't over and more wildfires might break out. The fire department has designated almost the whole eastern part of the mainland, plus the islands of Evia and Rhodes as well as large swaths of the southwest, as Category 5, the highest for the risk of fire outbreaks Sunday. A further chunk of Greece has been designated Category 4, very high risk. □



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Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on

the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows



the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natural Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is



therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you

further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



(Oranjestad)—If you ever plan on taking a group tour of the island, you may pass through the Frenchman's Pass in Balashi. The Frenchman's pass (known to locals as "Franse Pas") remains a mysterious—and spooky—road of which its legend is told from generation to generation.

The history of the Frenchman's pass—and how it got its name—dates back to

the colonization era, when the French tried to colonize the island, but were met with an angry mob of indigenous settlers, refusing to give up their land. However, as the French were heavily equipped with fire arms, the indigenous settlers began to retreat, and hid away in nearby caves. The French colonizers tried to smoke them out of the caves, but the indigenous settlers ended up inhaling

Aruban legends: Frenchman's Pass

ing too much smoke and most died in those caves. From then on, this passage was known as Frenchman's Pass, and there have been many accounts of spirits roaming the area of Spanish Lagoon.

There are many ghost stories surrounding this area, but one of the most famous one involves a lonely hitchhiker, trying to find a ride back home in the dark rainy night.

Sometime after trying to hitchhike, the man saw a car approaching, appearing almost ghost-like in the rain. However, since he needed a ride real bad, he didn't think twice and jumped in. But to his horror,

he noticed that the there was no driver in the front. Paralyzed with fear, he didn't dare to get out, and the car started to move.

When approaching a sharp turn, the hitch hiker braced for impact, but just when he thought the car might drive straight off the road and crash, he saw a hand appear out the window and turn the wheel. For the next few turns, the hand appeared again. After having had enough, the man decided to jump out and he ran to Santa Cruz.

Arriving at a nearby bar, he ordered a drink and began to tell everyone about his experience. Everyone grew quiet, because they real-

ized he wasn't some drunk messing around; he was telling the truth.

Sometime later, two men walked into the bar and one of them noticed the hitchhiker. He called out to his buddy and said: "Look, there's the idiot who sat in our car when we were pushing it!"

French man's pass is one of the few sites on the island that keeps the locals on their toes. While most ghost stories may not have real grounds—or some may even be a set up story for a joke, this pass contributes a lot to our culture of folkloric story-telling. □

Source: visitaruba.com



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Starr Ramos, spokesperson for

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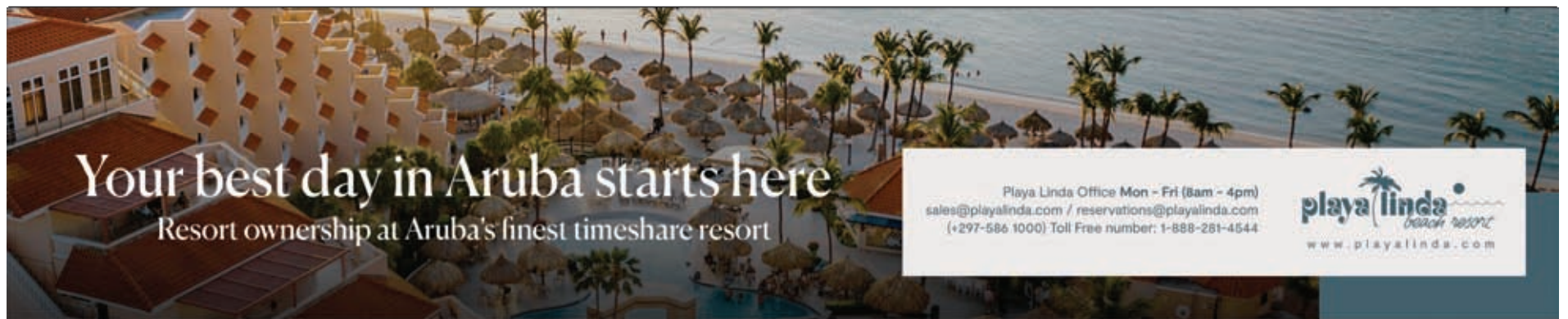
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tions while maintaining the security and comfort of your home resort.

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About Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba

Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba is a premier beachfront resort since 1986 and located at Aruba's stunning Eagle Beach. With 40 1-bedroom Ambassador suites and 107 two-bedroom Presidential Suites the resort offers luxurious spacious accommodations, world-class amenities, and a range of recreational activities for an unforgettable vacation experience. With a commitment to excellence, Casa del Mar Beach Resort Aruba provides exceptional service and continues to be a favorite destination for travelers from around the world. □



Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!



(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last gla-

cial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano, from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these

fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times on the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have

pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protecting and preserve our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! ☐



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Episode 26

All for the red Aruban gold



Playa, was and still is how everyone referred to the area of Horses bay. The beach at the salt lake and the fresh water well close to the village, they all are gone today.

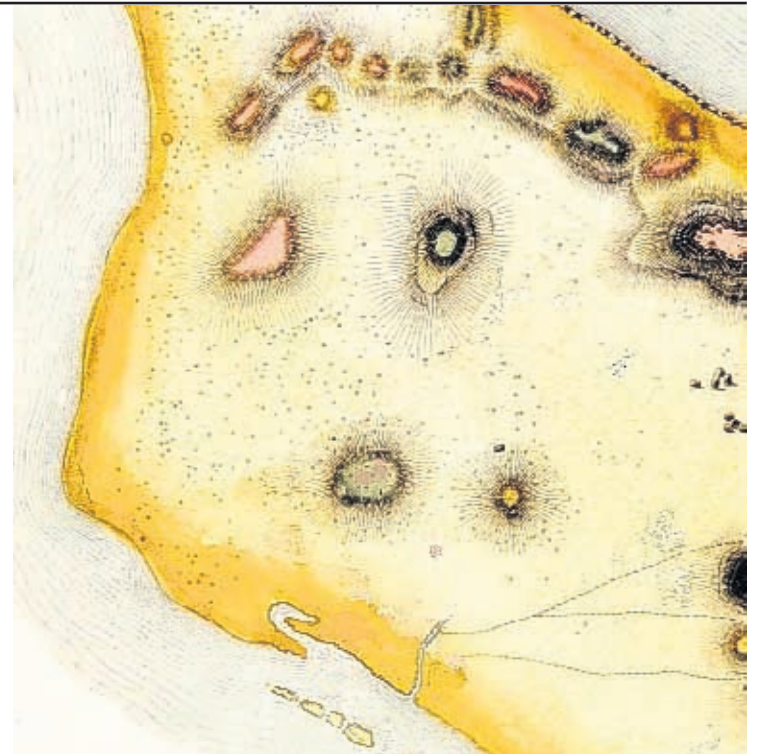
Since the Spaniards anchored here, five centuries ago, it was thought to be a safe harbor for unloading livestock. Horses swam ashore to be herded by the Indians who had a special way with horses. The method was to have someone stand on the beach holding a horse on

a leash, while other riders were ready to indicate the incoming herds where to swim to. This spot was known as Taratata, by the Caquetios.

However they claimed it meant "place of arrival" told by the old ones, the Paleo ancestors, who lived here way before us. They had an encampment at both sides of the entrance of a narrow lagoon. At that time it was all covered with vegetation. This same lagoon went way in land reaching a zone

called Tarabana. At Playa on a good day, you could find canoes, piraguas and Cayucos on the beach. Boats of various sizes dug out from tree trunks and all fantastically decorated.

The layback life changed abruptly when gold was found by a Dutch mestizo sheep herder called Willem Rasmijn. Trade activities exploded, like a rocket though the sky. This even made the commanders consider moving office from Commanders bay to Horses bay. Merchants and gold smiths of Curacao soon settled at the foot hill on the path going to the town of Noord. Now the story of Aruban gold reached the ears of freebooters, pirates and buccaneers. Strange ships could be seen at the horizon. You did not really needed to be a corsair; anyone who wanted to get some of it could do so for their own. Now, something had to be done to maintain peace and order



under the citizens.

Governor Johan Rudolf Lauffer (1796-1803), a Swiss by birth, had the idea that a fort was very necessary and had some designs presented. Rather against war fleets of European armed forces, forts in overseas areas should withstand any privateer incursion. The fort was constructed and four pieces of artillery were mounted there in 1797. From that time the number of people coming to live on the bay itself constantly increased. This was the reason why Commander Borchard Specht (from 1792) or his grandson Pieter Specht (from 1803) shifted the seat of authority. When Commanders' Bay was deserted and the people settled on the Ponton hill, the administrations also moved there. Now that it had become safer to live on the bay and a new dwelling-Centre was arising around it and the commander established his headquarters there too.

Oral tradition says that Commander Bruin Goversz Quant (1805-6) still resided at Ponton. A removal after Quant would be plausible. Quant's house was razed to the ground by the English. In fact, until the coming of Boye in 1816, our information about the commanders is very confusing indeed. It does not seem to be known where Boye lived, but about Jan van der Biest III, who superseded him, in the capacity of vice-commander in

1819, tradition reports that he used to live at a place where now Windstraat runs. In Van der Biest's time there still was "mondi" (An Aruban word denoting barren soil over-grown with weeds and cactuses). The story tells us that the old kwihi-tree- it has survived till the present day- was already standing there at that time. People now belonging to the oldest generation relate that they heard that under this kwihi-tree Van der Biest used to play his violin in the evening, seated before his country-house.

A delightful scene from Aruba's age of repose: The commander in his garden, playing his violin to his family, in the background some slaves serving (un-cooled) refreshments. A peacefulness only slightly disturbed by an occasional visitor who, on horseback, or straddling a donkey, comes to pay his respects to the commander and his family. We have anticipated events here in order to be able to give a continuous survey of the removals of the commander's residence. Together with this functionary an increasing number of persons settled "on the Bay", as it was then commonly called. The construction of the Fort had made life reasonably safe there, though his safety will prove anything but absolute in the period to be discussed in the next episode. □

Source; Island Insight by Etnia Nativa

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Fruit Loose & Veggie Boost: Aruban fruits and vegetables

Fresh fruits make a tropical holiday's picture complete. Whether you see the mangoes hanging in the trees or the fresh fruit cocktail on the side table of your pool bed, the link is there: you are in the tropics. Aruba grows her own fruits and veggies and there are some pretty out-of-space local species you may never had heard of, but really healthy and delicious.

Mispel

This is a fruit with a character (5-10 cm/2-4 inches). It does not ripe until it is picked or falls off the tree. Mispel is hard with a sandpaper like texture when immature, soft and juicy when ripe. It's technically a berry, but contains a skin similar to that of a kiwi. It's grainy and sweet, with a light, musky flavor. The sap or gum from the tree is also a source of 'chicle' the original ingredient used to make chewing gum. Rich in tannins, antioxidants shown to contain anti-inflammatory compounds, and vitamin C, essential for healthy immune function. Season: year-round.

Kenepa



Ovoid green fruit that grows in bunches on trees up to 30m high. The fruit is related to the lychee and have tight, thin but rigid skins. Inside the skin is the tart, tangy, or sweet pulp of the fruit covering a large seed. The pulp is usually cream or orange colored. Kenepa strengthens the immune system, and prevents the reproduction of bacteria and viruses in the body. This fruit is highly recommended to treat lung infections and urinary tract infections. It also helps to cure insomnia and rejuvenates the nervous system. Season: the fruit typically ripen during the summer.

Druif



There is no chance you did not bump into one of the sea grape trees while spending your vacation on Aruba. The sea grape plant is often used in ocean-side landscaping in sandy soil right on the beach and it produces clusters of fruit that resemble grapes. Are sea grapes edible? Yes, they are. Animals enjoy sea grapes and humans can eat them as well, and they are used to make jam. They contain very low calories and sugar, enabling good bacterium to digest food and excrete waste quickly which is effective in preventing constipation. Season: Sep-Oct.

Shimarucu



Maybe Aruba's most popular wild fruit tree. You may have noticed cars at the side of the road and people picking those red berries. Well, that's Shimarucu. The local habit to stop for these delicious fruits goes from generation to generation. Its fruit's degree of sour depends on the amount of rain it gets. Red Shimarucus tend to taste better than orange. The fruit has super power: a true vitamin bomb. Adults only need to eat 3-4 of these berries to meet their daily recommended amount of Vitamin C. Season: Rainy months (Oct-Jan).

Tamarind



A delicious, sweet fruit that has a wide variety of uses and applications, both for medicinal and culinary purposes. It is a medium-sized bushy tree with evergreen leaves and fruit that develops in pods characterized by long, brown shells. Inside is a sticky, fleshy, juicy pulp, which is the Tamarind fruit. Both sweet and sour in taste, the fruit contains a significant level of vitamin C, as well as vitamin E, B vitamins, calcium, iron, phosphorous, potassium, manganese, and dietary fiber. There are also a number of organic compounds that make tamarind a powerful antioxidant and anti-inflammatory agent. Season: March.

When it comes to veggies the island certainly offers a home-grown selection. They taste delicious and have their specific talents to boost your immune system. Start the day with a 'batida' (smoothie) enriched with a local veggie touch or select your restaurant that offers local vegetable dishes to get the real pure taste of it.

Comcomber chiquito



This is a sort of local squash, but looks like a cucumber with prickly skin. The taste however is bitterer than the cucumber and the vegetable is smaller in size but bigger in width. Inside is a soft, fleshy pulp and seeds, just like the cucumber. Comcomber chiquito is grown in the island and used in salads and 'stoba' (stew) or on its own in vinegar. The veggie contains multiple B vitamins, including vitamin B1, vi-

tamin B5, and vitamin B7 (biotin). B vitamins are known to help ease feelings of anxiety and buffer some of the damaging effects of stress. Additionally this veggie is rich in two of the most basic elements needed for healthy digestion: water and fiber. Season: year-round.

Yambo

Family of Okra, also known as 'lady's fingers': a green flowering plant. Okra belongs to the same plant family as hibiscus and cotton. A classic favorite dish in Aruba is Sopi di yambo. It has long been favored as a food for the health-conscious. It contains potassium, vitamin B, vitamin C, folic acid, and calcium. It's low in calories and has a high dietary fiber content. Recently, a new benefit of including okra in your diet is being considered. Okra has been suggested to help manage blood sugar in cases of type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes. Season: year-round.

Bonch'i Cunucu

A long, small bean, boiled for a side dish or snack. Long beans have a chewy, crunchy texture—more so than snap beans—and a flavor reminiscent of the dry navy bean or asparagus. Besides stir-fry, soups and salads, the long bean is a good choice for stewing, braising (to remain chewy and firm), sautéing, shallow frying, and deep frying. With cooking, the long bean's bean flavor intensifies. Long beans are low in calories, about 45 calories per cup, and rich in vitamin A and also contain vitamin C and potassium. Season: year-round.

Pampuna



In the endless summer of Caribbean living we only have to concern ourselves with a wet season and a dry season. Still we do indulge heavily in the pleasures of pumpkin and enjoy Caribbean pumpkin recipes year round. A popular dish in Aruban restaurants is Sopa Di Pompuna, don't miss it. This dish is made of pumpkin soup, and parsley. Pumpkins are rich in flavonoid polyphenolic antioxidants such as xanthin, lutein and carotenes and also contain vitamins. Pumpkin seeds are a good source of omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins, minerals and proteins. Pumpkins are used to make desserts, breads and soups. □

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Post-surgery regimen, for short
 - 6 This symbol: ,
 - 11 "Once upon — ..."
 - 12 Be patient for
 - 13 Florida city
 - 14 Slow tempo
 - 15 Continental coin
 - 17 Slangy agreement
 - 18 Appetizers
 - 22 Red-ink amount
 - 23 Cinco de Mayo event
 - 27 Group of top players
 - 29 Online messages
 - 30 Trail mix bit
 - 32 Land in the sea
 - 33 Soaks
 - 35 Fernur's upper end
 - 38 Harry Belafonte hit
 - 39 Boise's state
 - 41 Fill with joy
 - 45 Subject
- DOWN**
- 1 Mouse's cousin
 - 2 Greek vowel
 - 3 That fellow
 - 4 This symbol: &
 - 5 Hum-dinger
 - 6 Diet unit
 - 7 Have debts
 - 8 Quite a few
 - 9 Spider's kin
 - 10 Resting on
 - 16 Game caller
 - 18 Open-handed hit
 - 19 Carryall
 - 20 On the ocean
 - 21 This symbol: ;
 - 24 Robe feature
 - 25 Mosaic piece
 - 26 Pub orders
 - 28 Writer Iris
 - 31 Brewed drink
 - 34 Russian denials
 - 35 Top 10 records
 - 36 Pop star
 - 37 One of a bear trio
 - 40 That fellow's
 - 42 Really impress
 - 43 Golf support
 - 44 Mess up

L	O	W	E	R		C	A	R	O	B
E	R	O	D	E		A	L	O	H	A
V	A	N	N	A		P	L	O	W	S
I	N	T	A	C	T		M	E	T	
E	G	O		T	A	C	T	I	L	E
D	E	N		I	S	R	A	E	L	
			V	O	T	E	D			
	C	R	A	N	I	A		S	E	E
Q	U	O	N	S	E	T		A	L	A
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A	F	T	E	R		O	L	I	V	E
F	U	R	R	Y		N	A	V	E	L
F	L	A	R	E		S	W	A	N	S

Saturday's answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11						12			
13						14			
			15		16		17		
18	19	20				21			
22				23		24	25	26	
27				28		29			
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35	36	37		38					
39			40		41	42	43	44	
45					46				
47					48				

7-24

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's. X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-24

CRYPTOQUOTE

NCM DIWH SJGRUQ ACCWGRU

QNCVKJQ. TYJGACMQ TRO

UGWWHXWCVKJQ. — QTJT

ACWKJGOUK

Saturday's Cryptoquote: NO PERSON IS YOUR FRIEND WHO DEMANDS YOUR SILENCE, OR DENIES YOUR RIGHT TO GROW. — ALICE WALKER

Wedding photographers adapt to couples who want less tradition on their big day



Jonica Moore, who's more than a decade into her second career as a wedding photographer, shoots photos as she walks home, Friday, July 21, 2023, in the Brooklyn section of New York. Associated Press

By MAE ANDERSON
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — More and more couples are throwing out the playbook for a traditional wedding — and posing new challenges for the people they hire to create the perfect images of their big day. Getting married has traditionally involved a large reception, and rituals like cake cutting, multiple toasts and time for dancing. A wedding photographer would capture it all — and the newly hitched couple would then wait weeks or months for the pictures. The pandemic and social media have upended those traditions. During the pandemic, many weddings turned into elopements. Social media images and videos took center stage when people couldn't gather for a big ceremony. Wedding photographers say some of the pandemic trends are sticking around. They're being asked to shoot more elopements and micro weddings — weddings with 50 or fewer guests — and to provide faster photos and behind-

the-scenes videos that can easily be shared on social media. That's on top of the regular wedding photos. Many photographers also find themselves much more involved in planning the wedding. Nina Larsen Reed of Larsen Photo Co. in Boulder, Colorado, says couples increasingly rely on her local knowledge when planning their big day. "Now I'm much more involved in everything from suggesting locations, building out timelines to recommending vendors and activities and really helping my couples plan for the whole day instead of just showing up to take photos of whatever they have planned on their own," she said. All of this means more work, leaving photographers to ponder whether they can do it all alone.

Kari Bjorn, owner of Kari Bjorn Photography in Fayetteville, Arkansas, said that to keep up with what clients are asking for, he's added some new services to his wedding packages, like wedding-day GIFs. He's also considering hiring a "day-of content creator," a job he's noticed being

advertised frequently this year.

"Essentially it's a contractor whose job it is to shoot and publish phone content for the bride and groom on their wedding day so they don't have to," he said. "I feel like people really want to post things instantly as their event is happening." Jonica Moore, owner of Jonica Moore Photography in Brooklyn, New York, said adding more social content to packages will likely require her to hire another person to help with weddings.

"If you're a photographer, you don't really have time to do that," she said. Adding help would mean more costs for photographers at a time when many have already raised their rates due to inflation. After a plunge in 2020 and modest increase in 2021, the number of weddings jumped to 2.5 million in 2022 due to pent up demand, according to the trade group Wedding Report. This year they're expected to total 2.2 million as the U.S. returns to a more normal wedding cadence. The cost of a wedding has gone up, according to data from wedding web site The Knot, but not dramatically. The national average cost of a wedding in 2022 was \$30,000, up \$2,000 from 2021. In 2019, before the pandemic, that figure stood at \$28,000.

Meanwhile, the average cost of a wedding photographer in 2022 was \$2,600, up only \$100 from 2021, although rates vary by location, time of year and the level of service. For instance, the mid-range cost in New York City is \$5,000 to \$7,500, Moore said.

Bjorn raised his rates after the boom year of 2022 but had to scale back a bit when he received fewer inquiries than he was expecting.

"It's been a rollercoaster," Bjorn said. "(Rates) are a little bit lower now than they were at the start of the year, but still higher than last year." □

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24/7

Musk says Twitter to change logo to "X" from the bird

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO

AP Retail Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Elon Musk said Sunday that he plans to change the logo of Twitter to an "X" from the famous blue bird, marking what would be the latest big change since he bought the social media platform for \$44 billion last year.

In a series of posts on his Twitter account starting just after 12 a.m. ET, Twitter's owner said that he's looking to make the change worldwide as soon as Monday.

"And soon we shall bid adieu to the twitter brand and, gradually, all the birds," Musk wrote on his account.

The change isn't surprising given Musk's long history with the name "X," says Allen Adamson, co-founder of marketing consultancy Metaforce. The billionaire Tesla CEO tweeted last October that "buying Twitter is an accelerant to creating X, the everything app."

Musk's rocket company, Space Exploration Technologies Corp., is commonly known as SpaceX. And in 1999, Musk founded a startup called X.com, an online financial services company now known as PayPal.

"Not sure what subtle clues gave it way, but I like the letter X," Musk tweeted Sunday.

But the change on Twitter was met with sharp criticism on the social media platform.

The change will be very confusing to a huge chunk of the Twitter's audience, which has been already souring on the social platform given a slew of other major changes Musk has made, Adamson said.

"They won't get it," he said. "It's a fitting end to a phenomenal unwinding of an iconic brand and business." Earlier this month, Musk put new curfews on his digital town square, a move that met with sharp criticism that it could drive away more advertisers and undermine its cultural influence as a trendsetter.

The higher tweet-view-



A Twitter app icon on a mobile phone is displayed in Philadelphia, U.S.A., April 26, 2017.

Associated Press

ing threshold is part of an \$8-per-month subscription service that Musk rolled out earlier this year in an attempt to boost Twitter revenue. Revenue has dropped sharply since Musk took over the company and laid off roughly three-fourths of the workforce to slash costs and avoid bankruptcy.

In May, Musk hired longtime NBC Universal executive Linda Yaccarino as Twitter's CEO.

Luring advertisers is essential for Musk and Twitter after many fled in the early months after his takeover of the social media platform, fearing damage to their brands in the enveloping chaos. Advertisers have cut back on spending partly because of changes Musk has made that has allowed for more hateful

content to flourish and that has offended a wider part of the platform's audience. Musk said in late April that advertisers had returned, but provided no specifics. Musk's move to change Twitter's logo to an "X" also comes as Twitter faces new competition from Meta's new app, Threads, launched earlier this month. It has been seen as an alternative for those who have been upset with Twitter.

Threads is being billed as a text-based version of Meta's photo-sharing app Instagram that the company has said offers "a new, separate space for real-time updates and public conversations."

In the first five days of its launch, 100 million people had signed up for Threads,

according to a post on Threads by Instagram head Adam Mosseri. □

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Brian Harman unstoppable in drama-free British Open win at Hoylake

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

HOYLAK, England (AP) —

Brian Harman turned back every challenge in the British Open, from big names to bad weather, and took his place among major champions Sunday with a victory that was never seriously in doubt at Royal Liverpool.

Harman twice responded to a rare bogey with back-to-back birdies, leaving everyone else playing for second. He closed with a 1-under 70, making an 8-foot par putt on the last hole for a six-shot victory.

At age 36, he is the oldest first-time major winner since Sergio Garcia was 37 when he won the Masters in 2017. Garcia wasn't a surprise. Not many would have seen this victory coming at the start of the week. Harman had gone 167 tournaments over six years since his last win in the 2017 Wells Fargo Championship. This is only his third title in his 12 years on the PGA Tour.

And then the avid outdoor-smen made winning golf's oldest championship look as easy as shooting fish in a barrel. Masters champion Jon Rahm birdied his last hole for a 70 to make it a four-way tie for second place with Tom Kim (67), Sepp Straka (69) and Jason Day (69).

That turned out to be the B-flight. "He won by six, so there's nothing really any of us could have done," Rahm said.

Harman took the lead on



United States' Brian Harman poses for the media as he holds the Claret Jug trophy for winning the British Open Golf Championships at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club in Hoylake, England, Sunday, July 23, 2023.

Friday morning with the second of four straight birdies early in the second round. He never trailed over the final 51 holes, leading by five shots after the second round and five shots after the third round.

He started the round in the rain with a smattering of boos from the grandstand, fans either wanting a big star or perhaps not paying attention to the master-class performance Harman had delivered. Playing with Tommy Fleetwood of England on Saturday, Harman said he heard a few comments he described as unrepeatable.

But he is full of Georgia grit, never wavering in rain or sunshine or wind.

He walked up toward the 18th green to a standing ovation, and tapped his hand to his heart to acknowledge the fans as he walked off the green. All that remained was signing his card — a 13-under 271 — and return to collect the silver claret jug, the oldest trophy in golf.

Brian Harman, champion golfer of the year. Imagine that.

"I'm going to have a couple of pints out of this here trophy, I believe," Harman said.

The finish, even without any drama, was fitting. Harman hit his approach from 194 yards into a pot bunker right of the 18th green, only the third bunker he was in over

72 holes. That's the biggest key to Royal Liverpool.

And he made the putt, giving him only 106 for the week.

"I doubled down on my process and I know it's boring and it is not flashy," Harman said. "But, until hitting that last bunker shot, I have not thought about winning the tournament."

There was one anxious moment early on Sunday in a steady rain. Harman hit his drive into a gorse bush left of the fairway on the par-5 fifth hole and had to take a penalty drop. It led to his second bogey of the round.

Rahm, playing in the group ahead, looked to get one of those breaks that fall to

major winners. His drive had landed between bushes, allowing for a shot just short of the green and a birdie.

The lead was down to three shots. The rain wasn't stopping. The rest of the links, along with the pressure that comes with Sunday at a major, was still ahead of him.

Harman drained a 15-foot birdie putt on the par-3 sixth, a 25-foot birdie putt on the next hole and he was on his way.

He dropped another shot on the par-3 13th that reduced his lead to four shots with five to play. And then he made birdie from 40 feet on the tough 14th, and followed with an 8-foot birdie on the 15th.

The year ended in more disappointment for Rory McIlroy, who had won the Scottish Open last week and was the last Open champion at Royal Liverpool in 2014. He was never really a factor, although he certainly teased the large galleries that followed him. Sunday was no exception. McIlroy started nine shots behind and ran off three straight birdies, starting with a 50-foot putt on No. 3. He was within five shots and still on the front nine. And then he stalled, not making another birdie until Harman was well on his way.

McIlroy was one shot better each round — 71-70-69-68 — to tie for sixth with Emiliano Grillo (68). That wasn't nearly enough to match a performance like Harman delivered. □



Vera Zvonareva of Russia returns the ball to Danielle Collins of the U.S., during the Miami Open tennis tournament, Saturday, March 26, 2022, in Miami Gardens, Fla.

Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Russian tennis player

Russia's Zvonareva banned from entering Poland for WTA 250 tournament

Vera Zvonareva has been banned from entering Poland, the country's Interior Ministry said. She was to participate in a WTA 250 tournament in Warsaw starting Monday.

A communique on the ministry website said the Polish Border Guard on Friday prevented entry by the former world No.2, who flew in from Belgrade on a French visa. She remained in the transit zone of the Warsaw

airport and on Saturday flew to Podgorica, Montenegro. Zvonareva, currently ranked 60th, was to take part in the PNB Paribas Warsaw Open tournament that begins Monday.

The 38-year-old player was still on the event's participants' list Sunday. The WTA said in a statement it was evaluating the situation. Poland, which supports Ukraine in its war against Russia's aggression, said

that Zvonareva was on a banned list and not allowed into the country for reasons of state and public security.

The communique stressed that Poland is consistent in opposing the "regime of (Russian and Belarusian Presidents Vladimir) Putin and (Alexander) Lukashenko" and is not allowing "people who support Russian and Belarusian actions to enter our country." □

Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard wins the Tour de France

PARIS (AP) — Danish rider Jonas Vingegaard won the Tour de France for a second straight year as cycling's most storied race finished Sunday on the famed Champs-Élysées.

With a huge lead built up over main rival Tadej Pogačar, the 2020 and 2021 winner, Vingegaard knew the victory was effectively his again before the largely ceremonial stage at the end of the 110th edition of the Tour.

The 26-year-old Vingegaard drank champagne with his Jumbo-Visma teammates as they lined up together and posed for photos on the way to Paris.

"It's been a long journey, yet it went by so fast," Vingegaard said. "Day after day, it was a super hard race with a super nice fight between me and Tadej. I've enjoyed every day. I hope to come back next year and see if I can take a third win."

It had been a three-week slog over 3,405 kilometers (2,116 miles) with eight mountain stages across five mountain ranges. Vingegaard seized control of the race over two stages in the Alps.

Little had separated the two rivals until Vingegaard finished a time trial 1 minute, 38 seconds ahead of Pogačar on Tuesday, then followed up the next day by finishing the toughest mountain stage of the race almost 6 minutes ahead of his exhausted rival.

"I'm dead," Pogačar said.

The Slovenian rider responded by winning the penultimate stage on Saturday, but Vingegaard still had an insurmountable lead of 7 minutes, 29 seconds going into the final stage — a mostly ceremonial stage which is contested at the end by the sprinters.

"We have to be careful not to do anything stupid," Vingegaard warned Saturday, "but yeah, it's amazing to take my second victory in the Tour de France."

Vingegaard kept that lead and was able to celebrate early Sunday as organizers decided to take the times one lap before the finish



Denmark's Jonas Vingegaard, wearing the overall leader's yellow jersey, drinks champagne with teammates during the twenty-first stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 115 kilometers (71.5 miles) with start in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines and finish on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France, Sunday, July 23, 2023.

Associated Press

when it started raining on the cobblestones of the Champs-Élysées. The decision invited the sprinters to

fight for the stage victory — the only remaining uncertainty.

Belgian cyclist Jordi Meeus

prevailed in a photo finish between four riders on the line, just ahead of Jasper Philipsen, Dylan Groenewegen and Mads Pedersen.

"It was my first Tour. It was a super nice experience already so far, and to take the win today is an indescribable feeling," said Meeus, who clocked a top speed of 68.8 kph (42.8 mph) on the last kilometer.

Pogačar, who attacked after just one lap of eight altogether on the Champs-Élysées, was wearing the white jersey as the best young rider for the 75th day — extending a career Tour record. The 24-year-old Slovenian rider has won the best young rider classification every year since 2020.

But Pogačar had to be content with second place

in the general classification again.

British rider Adam Yates, Pogačar's teammate, finished third overall, ahead of his twin brother Simon.

Colombian rider Egan Bernal, the 2019 Tour winner, completed the race as he made his impressive comeback from a life-threatening crash. The 26-year-old Bernal said he narrowly avoided becoming paralyzed after an accident with a bus while training in Colombia in January 2022.

"It's difficult to compare with the year I won but it's almost the same feeling because for me it's a great victory," Bernal said. "Yesterday, in the last climb, I was so lucky I was alone and could enjoy the last kilometers. I was so emotional." □



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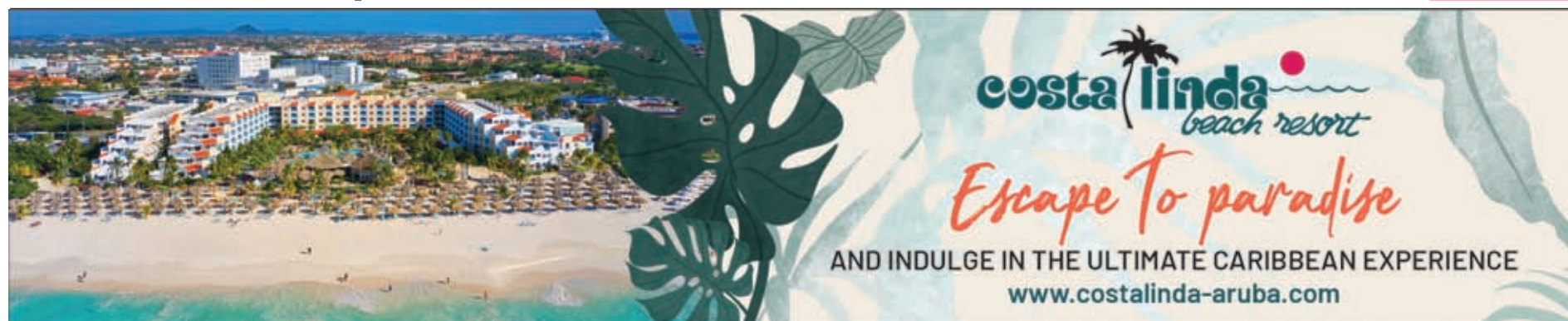
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Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all throughout the year, and hopefully will continue to do so in the years to come. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, every to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! ☐



"Water's Edge Restaurant is where magnificent beach views, amazing food and excellent service come together."

Water's Edge is open daily from 8am – 11pm

To reserve your table please call **+297 583-8000 / ext 8106** or direct line **+297 586-9494**

For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website **watersedge-aruba.com**

